

JAN 31 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON
HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
REDUCING THE IMPACT OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS ON
THE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, although health insurance providers' prior
2 authorization requirements are intended to ensure that medical
3 services are necessary, cost-effective, and eligible for
4 coverage, these requirements can cause critical medical
5 treatments and tests to be delayed; and
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7 WHEREAS, the misapplication of prior authorization
8 requirements can be especially harmful for rural and medically
9 underserved patients, who already face significant barriers to
10 accessing care; and
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12 WHEREAS, the requirements can also create undue
13 administrative burdens for healthcare providers, including
14 providers in medically underserved areas; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
17 have mandated changes to prior authorization rules that will
18 help reduce the burdens of prior authorization on certain
19 patients and physicians; and
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21 WHEREAS, whereas these changes do not benefit private
22 payers in the State, who still require prior authorization for
23 many common services; and
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25 WHEREAS, recommendations are needed to reduce the impact of
26 prior authorization requirements on the delivery of healthcare
27 to all patients in the State; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
31 that the Director of Health is urged to establish a working
32 group on health insurance reform to provide recommendations for
33 reducing the impact of prior authorization requirements on the
34 timely delivery of healthcare in the State; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
3 to comprise:

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5 (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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7 (2) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and
8 Human Services, or a member appointed by the President
9 of the Senate;
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11 (3) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
12 Committee on Health, or a member appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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15 (4) A representative of the Hawaii Medical Service
16 Association, to be selected and invited to participate
17 by the Director of Health;
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19 (5) The Department of Human Services' Med-QUEST Division
20 Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;
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22 (6) A member of the Hawaii Medical Association, to be
23 selected and invited to participate by the Director of
24 Health; and
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26 (7) members who practice as family physicians in
27 the State, to be selected and invited to participate
28 by the Director of Health; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
31 to consider all relevant federal law, Hawaii law, and law in
32 other states to determine whether there are statutes and
33 regulations that establish:

- 34
35 (1) Reasonable and appropriate prior authorization
36 response times, including whether a response time of
37 twenty-four hours for urgent care and forty-eight
38 hours for non-urgent care is feasible;
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40 (2) Valid prior authorizations for medications for a
41 period of at least one year, regardless of dosage
42 changes;



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2 (3) Valid prior authorizations for the length of treatment
3 for patients having chronic conditions;
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5 (4) That adverse determinations should only be conducted
6 by providers licensed in the State and of the same
7 specialty that typically manages the patient's
8 conditions;
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10 (5) The manner in which retroactive denials may be avoided
11 if care is preauthorized;
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13 (6) Procedures whereby private insurers may publicly
14 release prior authorization data, disaggregated by
15 drug or service, as it relates to approvals, denials,
16 appeals, wait times, and other categories;
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18 (7) Reasonable and appropriate periods of time for a new
19 health plan to honor a patient's prior authorization
20 for a transitional period of time; and
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22 (8) Criteria or factors that would allow for a reduction
23 in the total volume of prior authorization requests,
24 such as exemptions or gold-carding programs; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
28 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
29 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
30 of 2026; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Med-QUEST
34 Division Administrator, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
35 Medical Service Association, and President of the Hawaii Medical
36 Association.
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OFFERED BY. 

